AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1. (Previously presented) An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image,

wherein the apparatus uses image data, including the balloon portion and the frame image, and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion; and

wherein the electronic comic is displayed frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) <u>An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the apparatus comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the</u>

skimming mode displaying ~~The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ ~~wherein~~ frames on one page ~~are displayed,~~ and <u>performing</u> either fade-in processing or fade-out processing ~~is performed~~ on a predetermined frame of the displayed frames.

4. (Original) The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein text data corresponding to at least two languages are stored as the text data and text data corresponding to a selected language is displayed within the balloon in response to a predetermined operation.

5. (Currently amended) <u>An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the apparatus comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying</u> ~~The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ ~~wherein~~ words ~~are displayed~~ part by part within the balloon portion in a predetermined order.

6. (Currently amended) <u>An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each</u>

page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the apparatus comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying ~~The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ ~~wherein~~ at least one frame including words in the balloon portion ~~is displayed~~, and performing either fade-in processing or fade-out processing ~~is performed~~ on all of the displayed words.

7. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing apparatus for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the apparatus comprising a careful reading mode and a skimming mode, the skimming mode displaying ~~The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1,~~ ~~wherein~~ frames on one page ~~are displayed~~, and sequentially displaying words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames ~~are displayed sequentially~~ in a predetermined frame order.

8. (Previously presented) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page,

which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image,

comprising:

storing the balloon portion and the frame image as image data;

storing words to be displayed in the balloon portion as text data separately from the

image data;

displaying words based on the text data in the balloon portion; and

displaying the electronic comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each

frame sequentially.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a

screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each

page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame

image, the method comprising:

providing a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

when the skimming mode is selected, The electronic comic viewing method

according to claim 8, further comprising displaying frames for one page, and performing

either fade-in processing or fade-out processing on a predetermined frame of the

displayed frames.

11. (Original) The electronic comic viewing method according to claim 8, further

comprising storing text data corresponding to at least two languages as the text data, and

displaying text data corresponding to a selected language within the balloon in response

to a predetermined operation.

12. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a

screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each

page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame

image, the method comprising:

    providing a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

    when the skimming mode is selected, The electronic comic viewing method

according to claim 8, further comprising displaying words part by part within the balloon

portion in a predetermined order.

13. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a

screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each

page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the method comprising:

providing a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

when the skimming mode is selected, ~~The electronic comic viewing method according to claim 8, further comprising~~ displaying at least one frame including words in the balloon portion, and performing either fade-in processing or fade-out processing on all of the displayed words.

14. (Currently amended) An electronic comic viewing method for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising:

providing a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

when the skimming mode is selected, ~~The electronic comic viewing method according to claim 8, further comprising~~ displaying frames on one page, and sequentially displaying words in a predetermined frame of the displayed frames in a predetermined frame order.

15. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including at least one frame on each page, which frame comprises a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising:

a word displaying code segment that uses image data including the balloon portion and the frame image and text data indicating words in order to display words based on the text data in the balloon portion; and

a comic displaying code segment that displays the electronic comic frame by frame on the screen by zooming-in each frame sequentially.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising:

a mode code segment that provides a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

a display code segment that, when the skimming mode is selected, displays The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein frames for one page are displayed, and

performs either fade-in processing or fade-out processing is performed on a

predetermined frame of the frames.

18. (Original) The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein text data

corresponding to at least two languages are stored as the text data and text data

corresponding to a selected language is displayed within the balloon in response to a

predetermined operation.

19. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for

viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of

frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words

and a frame image, the program comprising:

a mode code segment that provides a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

a display code segment that, when the skimming mode is selected, displays The

recording medium according to claim 15, wherein words are displayed part by part within

the balloon portion in a predetermined order.

20. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for

viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of

frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising:

a mode code segment that provides a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

a display code segment that, when the skimming mode is selected, displays ~~The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein~~ at least one frame including words in the balloon portion ~~is displayed~~, and performs either fade-in processing or fade-out processing ~~is performed~~ on all of the displayed words.

21. (Currently amended) A recording medium on which is recorded a program for viewing on a screen of a display device an electronic comic including a plurality of frames on each page, at least one frame comprising a balloon portion displaying words and a frame image, the program comprising:

a mode code segment that provides a careful reading mode and a skimming mode,

a display code segment that, when the skimming mode is selected, displays ~~The recording medium according to claim 15, wherein~~ frames for one page ~~are displayed~~, and sequentially displays words in a predetermined frame among the displayed frames ~~are displayed sequentially~~ in a predetermined frame order.

22. (Previously presented) The electronic comic viewing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus displays a next frame in response to a user operation.

23. (Previously presented) The electronic comic viewing method of claim 8, further comprising displaying a next frame in response to a user operation.

24. (Previously presented) The medium according to claim 15, further comprising a switching code segment that switches display to a next frame in response to a user operation.